No. H.-67—100,000—1.47.

L & P.H (1948) Department

Ms SERIES.

No 2403 P.H

Dated 13 7.48

[Despatch Abstract.]

PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD - Meeting held on 8th June 1948 - Papers recorded.

Proceedings of the meeting of the Public Health Board held on Tuesday, the 8th June 1948, at 11 a.m. in the room of the Hon. the Minister for Public Health, Fort St. George.

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PRESENT:-

1. The Hon. Sri A.B. Shetty, Minister for Public Health (Chairman)
2. K.M. Unnithan, Esq., I.C.S. Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.
3. Sri S. Ramachandra, Sanitary Engineer to Government.
4. Rao Bahadur Dr. R.M. Mathew, D.P.H., D.I.M & H., M.R.C..P. Director of Public Health.
5. Sri Rao Sahib Dr. R. Anantam Pillai, L.M.S., B.S.Sc., Asst. Director of Public Health.
6. Col. S.L. Bhatia, C.I.E., M.C., Surgeon-General.
7. L.C. Pais, B.A.B.L., M.L.A.

Mr. C.O. Coorey, M.B.E., I.C.S., Jt. Secretary to Government Education and Public Health Department also attended the meeting.

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Board on the 21st November 1947.

The minutes of the meeting of the Board on the 21st November were approved and it was decided that the question of appointment of Sanitary Superintendents under District Health Officers should be discussed afresh.

It was also expressed that what was decided in the previous meeting was to have a separate Regional Nutrition Officer for the West Coast districts of Malabar and South Kanara and not merely to depute one of the existing Regional Nutrition Officers for work in these districts.

II(a) Provision of creches in bigger municipalities and by industrial concerns.

Dr. Anantam Pillai said that creches were proposed to be put up in Coimbatore and action has been taken to provide one in Vijayavada. Some industrial concerns in Salem and Coimbatore were constructing them for their own employees. Several agencies have been written to and those who have not responded so far would be reminded. Only in Vijayawada the Municipality was taking up the matter and would be coming to Government in due course. Further replies received would be brought before the Board.

(b)Dr. Anantam Pillai said that the work could be much better seen from January to June. It was decided however that the Government should be addressed regarding travelling allowance for the members of the Committee in connection with their visit to Malaria centres.

(c) Kala-azar in Ramnad district.

The Director of Public Health stated that complaints regarding the disease existing in an endemic form in Ramnad district had been made and a research officer was sent to take statistics, it was found that kala-azar was present in an endemic form in the coastal belt of the Ramnad district. What was wanted was treatment and it was very difficult to take any preventive measures, since this was a disease carried by the sand fly. In reply to a question from the Hon. Minister whether the District Health Officers would be able to furnish information regarding the prevalence of the disease in the various coastal districts Mr. Anantam Pillai observed that it was not a notifiable disease and it was not easy to diagnose. The Minister suggested that an enquiry though not a regular survey might be undertaken. Mr. Unnithan said that it must not be left to M.L.As. to bring the incidence of such diseases to the notice of the Board and the Board must have an idea as to what the particular disease are that have to be tackled in particular areas. The Hon'ble Minister said that the P.H. Deptt. should have information of the incidence of the several practicble diseases. He expressed the view that P.H. Deptt. should not concentrate on vaccination against small pox alone but should attempt to control all other preventible diseases. It was agreed that an enquiry might be made about the prevalence of this disease

P.T.O.

disease in other districts where it is in an endemic form and arrangemnet ments should be made for their proper treatment.

II(d) Attendance of Women Medical Officers (M & C.W) on difficult cases of labour.

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Quoting from a circular issued by him in 1935 the D.P.H. said a Woman Medical Officer should not take up cases where there is a hospital or other medical practitioners availble to attend to them except in emergencies, she may not be held responsible to treat such cases except in an emergency where there is danger to the life of the mother ~~xxxxxxxx~~ or the child. There should not be any completition with other medical practitioners. Mr. Unnithan said the question of competitio might well be ignored and the question being one of convenience to the public. Mr. Pais pointed out that the medical officers had no proper equipment with them. The Surgeon-General observed that the W.M.Os. must be provided with all the appliances to deal with emergencies and she must be able to handle any cases brought by her mid-wife. Mr. Pais suggested that the instructions to the Women Medicals should be suitably revised for they seemed to be taking shelter under the old instructions and refusing to give medical aid when called for.

Details were placed before the Board of the Circular on the subject, i.e. No.2/M dated the 26th February 1945, the Board was of the opinion that all difficult cases of labour attended to by the maternity and child-welfare midwives should be undertaken by the Women Medical Offi and she should be equipped with all necessary appliances for the purpose and that even in other cases the women medical Officer in charge of a maternity and childwelfare centres should attend in emergencies.

The Hon. Minister said that many people did not care to have the benefit of ante-natal treatment of the woman medical officer and they just came in at the last moment and they must not be turned out.

III and IV Approval of designs for maternity and child Welfare Centres and for creche.

It was represented that the estimate ranged from Rs.30,000/- to 54,000/- and it might fluctuate; the idea was just to provide the authorities with a design which they might adopt according to their purse; it was merely a model.

The designs were approved.

V. Isolation and treatment of cases of infectious diseases.

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The Director of Public Health stated that for diseases other than small pox ~~xxxxx~~ and chicken pox, Government had taken the responsibility for treatment to the extent facilities existed in the Government institutions; he said that in bigger municipalities having a population of over 50,000 they should have separate institutions so that cases in areas around about and in villages might be attended to, due provision being made for recovery from the local authority of proportionate costs relating to such cases. The Public Health Act has placed an obligation upon the municipalities and he felt that it must be enforced.

Mr. Unnithan suggested that the municipalities to which a first class officer is attached might be considered as higger municipalities.

The Board decided that the Government might impress on municipalities employing first class health officers, that is municipalities with population over 50,000, to have separate hospitals for the isolation and treatment of infectious hospitals with adequate staff and that these hospitals may admit alsc ~~cases~~ in other local areas in the neighbourhood for which proportionate charges may be recovered from the local authority concerned.

P.T.O.

VI. Any other Business.

The Board took up the question of communicable diseases and resolved that it is the opinion of the Board that a rough survey about the incidence of such communicable diseases like philariasis, kala-azar, guinea worm might be got through the agency of the District Medical and Public Health staff.

Mr. Unnithan said that during a visit to Madura he had the opportunity of inspecting some 10 or 15 latrines and that they were maintained in a very unsatisfactory manner. There of course the larger question whether conservancy was the concern of the engineering or healt staff. In this particular case, the municipal engineerings staff were prepared to undertake the work. The Director of Public Health observed that the Conservancy Department was under the mangement of the Health Department. Somebody had to do the work and there being no other agency, the Health Department was doing it. He pointed out that complaints arose from the fact that there was no scavenger posted for work in the latrine throughout the day, there was also an adequate number of public latrines Mr. Pais pointed out that so far as conservancy work is concerned, the powers vested with the Health officer and the Commissioner was powerless

It was agreed that the present arrangements may go on.

The Minister suggested that a small sub-committee might not be set up to suggest how best co-ordication between the Health, Engineering and the Commissioner's Departments of the municipalities could be achiev as regards conservancy. Mr. Unnithan said that the scope of the Committee would have to be very wide. The Diredtor of Public Health said that the matter referred to Mr by Mr. Unnithan is being looked into by him and that in course of time a reply will be sent.

On the question as to whom should be in charge of conservancy, it was decided that the matter should be examined and put up before the Board at its next meeting.

The Board adjourned to meet on a day to be notified later.

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From the Director of Public Health, D.No.256-Hyg-48 dated 18-6-4_

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The D.P.H. has forwarded a copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the Public Health Board held on 8-6-48. It is on pages 23-27 cf. The copy of the proceedings has been compared with the original notes prepared by the Secretarial Stenographer. It is seen that 'M' on p.13 cf. has been omitted in the copy sent by the D.P.H. For orders whether this should be brought to the notice of the Direct.

Not necessary it is provided for under 'P' on p. 20 cf.
C.O.Coorey.
J.S.

Nutrition Research: The P.H. Board have decided that there should be a separate Regional Nutrition Health Office for the West Coast districts of Malabar and South Kanara. It may be mentioned here that the Govt. are considering separately the question of effecting retrenchment in the Nutrition Branch. The D.P.H's proposal with reference to the Public Health Board's decision above may however be awaited.

Malaria organisation - Visit to malaria schemes:

The P.H. Board has resolved that since the malaria transmission season is now over the visits to malaria schemes by the Committee members may be arranged in the next season. The D.P.H. has also been requested by the Board to address Madras Govt. to sanction travelling allowance for the non-official members of the Committee on the same scale as for members of the 1st Class Committee.

P.T.O.

The receipt of definite proposals from the D.P.H. in this regard may be awaited.

C.O.Coorey,
Jt.Secy.

E & P.H.(E2) Department.

Construction of Latrines:

The attention of the D.P.H. has been invited to the Proceedings of the Meetings of the Public Health Board on the above subject and he has been asked to issue instructions to municipal Health Officers to take particular care to see that all public latrines and their premises are kept clean. Where the number of such sanitary conveniences fall short of the requirements, the municipalx Councils have been urged to put up more latrines. The D.P.H. has also been asked to send a report to Govt. urgently on the action taken in the matter. His reply is awaited.

Item II(d) on page 25 cf. - Attendance of W.M.Os. (M & C.W.) in difficult cases of labour.

It is presumed that, in pursuance of the Board's resolution, the D.P.H. will issue necessary further instructions in modification of his 1935 circular on the subject. No specific action appears to be xxxxxxxx necessary, subject of course, to orders on 'A' on the previous page.

Item III & IV on page 25 cf: Approval of Type designs for M. & C.W. centres. Necessary action is being taken in the connected file.

Item V on p.25 cf.

An extract of this item has been taken for further action in this section.

May be circulated to H.M.(P.H.)

C.O.Coorey,
J.S.

Sd/- H.M.(P.H.)

No further action is called for in this file. The papers may be

G.O.Ms.No.2403 P.H. dated 13-7-1948.

R e co r d e d.

Abstract: Public Health. Board Meeting held on 8th July 1948-Papers Recorded.

T. GOVINDA MENON,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

(True copy)

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

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